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Rural District of Bridgwater



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1962

RURAL DISTRICT OF BRIDGWATER

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1962

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MR. F.W. MOVERLEY

Vice Chairman:

MR. E. STOREY

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MR. A.M.P. LUSCOMBE
(Chairman of Council)
(ex-officio)

DR. W.R. THORNER

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1962

Medical Officer of Health:

R.H. WATSON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer (Somerset C.O.)

CHRISTINE M. ROOKE, M.B., B.S.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

F.A. MAILE, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

D.J. EMMIS, M.A.P.H.I.

B.F. HITCHCOCK, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1962

Health Department,
Albert Street,
BRIDGWATER.

Tel: Bridgwater 2689

August, 1963.

To:

The Chairmen and Members of the
Bridgwater Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District, and the work of the Public Health Department during the year 1962. The report is set out in the manner of previous years, so that comparison with former reports can easily be made.

As far as can be judged from a study of the vital statistics, the general health of the District was satisfactory during the year. The figures show little variation from those of the previous year and compare favourably with those for the country as a whole.

Water shortage has again been an acute problem. The completion of the Hawkridge scheme obviously helped considerably to ameliorate the drought conditions of the summer of 1962, but nevertheless the fact remains that restrictions on the use of the domestic water supply were instituted towards the end of June and were in force for the remainder of the summer.

The importation of smallpox by immigrants from endemic areas and subsequent outbreaks of the disease in this country gave rise to general alarm and although this area was not affected, the Department was under considerable pressure to provide vaccination for all sorts of people who were not at risk. Fortunately restrictions on the supply of vaccine assisted us to adopt a definite policy and for the most part vaccination was provided only for those whose occupation might make them contacts of any cases which would arise, e.g., hospital staffs, ambulance drivers, Health Department staff etc., and to people having contact with infected areas, or who were travelling abroad. In spite of these restrictions a very considerable number of persons were vaccinated and there was much dislocation of routine work.

Slum clearance and the provision of satisfactory houses by the Council and by private enterprise has proceeded most satisfactorily.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council, the other Chief Officers, and the Staff of the Health Department, for the help and co-operation which I have received during the year.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
R.H. WATSON.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres)	86,000
Population (census 1961)	21,985
Population (Registrar General's estimate) 1962	22,500
No. of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1962	6,990
Rateable value on 31st December, 1962	£194,847
Sum represented by 1d rate on 31st December, 1962	£ 784.1.7

Extracts from VITAL STATISTICS for the year 1962

Live Births.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	202	175	377
Illegitimate	10	10	20
	<u>212</u>	<u>185</u>	<u>397</u>

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	17.64
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	5.4
Stillbirths	7
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	17.33
Total live and stillbirths	404
Infant Deaths (deaths of infants under one year of age)	1
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - total	2.52
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - legitimate	2.65
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - illegitimate	nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	nil
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	nil
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	17.33
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births	nil

Deaths.

Total number of deaths	239
Death Rate per 1,000 population	10.62

Births.

After allowing for inward and outward transfers the Registrar General's figures show that there were 397 births (212 boys and 185 girls) in the Rural District during 1962, being 10 births less than in 1961. Of these births 20 were illegitimate. This is 5.4% of the total live births, as compared with 4.9% in 1961.

The birth rate of any area is dependent upon the composition of the population in that area. Obviously a population with a high proportion of persons of child bearing age will have more births per 1,000 of the population than an area with an unduly large number of people in the older age groups. To enable the birth rates of different areas to be compared, the Registrar General provides a comparability factor for each Local Authority area, which renders the birth rate of each area comparable with that of a district the population of which is of standard age and sex distribution. The birth rate for the Rural District adjusted in this manner is increased from 17.64 to 18.16 per 1,000 of the population. The birth rate for England and Wales was 18.0.

Birth rates for the Rural District and for England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Crude Birth Rate	17.41	17.21	18.59	18.54	17.64
Standardised Birth Rate	18.80	18.09	20.08	20.02	18.16
England and Wales	16.4	16.5	17.1	17.4	18.0

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered in the Rural District during 1962 was 155. Of these 11 were deaths of non-residents and were transferred to the district in which the persons ordinarily resided. There were, on the other hand 95 deaths of Rural District residents registered outside the District. (48 at Taunton hospitals and 47 elsewhere). The total corrected number of deaths assigned to the District was 239 (131 males and 108 females). This was 17 less than in the previous year and gave a crude death rate of 10.62 per 1,000 of the population.

The crude death rate cannot be used to compare the mortality with that of other districts, as the populations of all areas are not similarly constituted as regards age and sex distribution. The Registrar General therefore supplies an "Area Comparability Factor" and the crude death rate multiplied by this figure can then be compared with that of the country as a whole, or of any other local area. The corrected death rate so obtained was 10.41 per 1,000 of the population, and this is compared with 11.9 for England and Wales.

Death rates for the District and for England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Crude Death Rate	10.71	11.12	11.53	11.66	10.62
Standardised Death Rate	9.75	10.23	10.61	10.72	10.41
England and Wales	11.7	11.6	11.5	12.0	11.9

Of 239 deaths, 157 occurred in people over the age of 70 years. 51 occurred in people in the productive age groups 20 to 64 years, and the following table gives the details of deaths in this age group.

	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-64	Total
Malignant neoplasm of stomach					2	2
Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus			1	4	2	7
Malignant neoplasm of breast		1		3	1	5
Malignant neoplasm of uterus					1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms				2		2
Leukaemia, aleukaemia				1		1
Vascular lesions of the nervous system			1	1	3	5
Coronary disease and angina			1	7	2	10
Hypertension with heart disease					1	1
Other heart disease				1	2	3
Other circulatory disease				1		1
Pneumonia			1	3	1	5
Other diseases of respiratory system				1	1	2
Congenital malformations		1				1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases		1	1			2
Motor vehicle accidents					1	1
All other accidents				1		1
Suicide				1		1
		3	5	26	17	51

Cancer Mortality.

The number of deaths of Rural District residents from cancer was 49 (males 23, females 26), as compared with 44 in 1961. They constituted 20.5% of the total deaths during the year.

The following table shows the localisation of the disease in the 49 cases.

	Number of deaths			
	Male	Female	Total	1962
Stomach	6	4	10	6
Lung, bronchus	9	-	9	11
Breast	-	9	9	-
Uterus	-	1	1	2
Other and unspecified organs	8	12	20	25
Total	23	26	49	44

Cancer of the Lungs.

The ages at which death occurred in the last four years combined is detailed in the following table:-

Year	Under 15	15/ 24	25/ 34	35/ 44	45/ 54	55/ 64	Over 65	Total
1959				1	3	2	2	8
1960					2	3	5	10
1961					2	3	6	11
1962				1	3	4	1	9
Total				2	10	12	14	38

Infantile Mortality.

1 infant under one year of age died during the year. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 2.51 per 1,000 of all live births, while the corresponding rate for England and Wales was 21.4.

The cause of death in this case of a child aged 7 months was Encephalitis.

Deaths from Heart Disease.

Of the 239 deaths, heart disease caused roughly 1 in every 3 (males 44, females 27). It represented 29% of the total deaths from all causes and was equivalent to a death rate of 3.2 per 1,000 of the population.

Other Deaths.

9 deaths were due to accidents, of which 3 were road accidents.

Cause of Death	M.	F.	Total
All Causes	131	108	239
1. Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	-	-	-
2. Other forms of tuberculosis	2	-	2
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	2	-	2
10. Malignant neoplasm of stomach	6	4	10
11. Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus	9	-	9
12. Malignant neoplasm of breast	-	9	9
13. Malignant neoplasm of uterus	-	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	12	20
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1	1
16. Diabetes	1	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system	16	16	32
18. Coronary disease and angina	28	11	39
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	2	2
20. Other heart disease	16	14	30
21. Other circulatory disease	12	11	23
22. Influenza	1	-	1
23. Pneumonia	7	5	12
24. Bronchitis	4	4	8
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	2	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	2	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	7	16
33. Motor vehicle accidents	3	-	3
34. All other accidents	3	3	6
35. Suicide	1	1	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-

Population.

The estimated population of the Rural District as at June 1962 was 22,500, which shows an increase of 550 on the previous year. The natural increase in the population, that is the excess of births over deaths, was 158, and therefore there was an increase in population of 392 due to immigration.

It is interesting to note the population changes which have taken place in recent years and the following table illustrates the trend during the past twelve years.

Year	Population increase	Natural increase	Change due to emigration or immigration
1951	480	58	+ 422
1952	- 610	82	- 692
1953	840	119	+ 721
1954	160	46	+ 114
1955	- 80	129	- 209
1956	400	120	+ 280
1957	- 610	83	- 693
1958	- 190	134	- 324
1959	230	112	+ 118
1960	280	138	+ 142
1961	1,450	151	+ 1,299
1962	550	158	392

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS

AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the cases of notifiable infectious diseases which were notified in the Rural District during 1962. The table is drawn up after making the necessary amendments to the original notifications by either the practitioners or the Medical Officer at the Isolation Hospital, owing to corrections in diagnosis.

Disease	Cases notified	
	1962	1961
Scarlet fever	7	6
Whooping cough	15	33
Measles	62	516
Dysentery	-	1
Pneumonia	14	6
Erysipelas	-	1
Acute encephalitis	-	1
Puerperal pyrexia	2	-
Rubella	4	2
Chicken pox	1	2
Gastro enteritis	-	1
Total	105	580

Measles.

62 cases were notified. Treatment by modern drugs has done much to reduce the severity of the common complications of this highly infectious disease.

Acute Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis).

(a) Cases

No cases were notified.

(b) Poliomyelitis Vaccination

The following tables show the number of persons who received a course of primary vaccination (two injections or three doses of Oral vaccine) and the number of persons who received reinforcements during 1962.

Children born 1962		Children born 1943-61		Young persons born 1933-42		Persons under 40 years of age & Priority Groups	
Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral
-	14	135	165	28	22	43	41

Number of persons (all groups) who rec'd a third reinforcing injection	Number of children of 5 yrs. but under 12 yrs. who rec'd a fourth reinforcing injection	Number of persons (all groups) who rec'd a reinforcing dose of Oral vaccine following two Salk inj.	Number of children of 5 yrs. but under 12 yrs. who rec'd a dose of Oral vaccine after three Salk inj.
494	86	235	139

Tuberculosis.

2 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory new case of tuberculosis were notified, as compared with 11 respiratory and 2 non-respiratory cases in 1961.

Respiratory Non-respiratory

Number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at 31.12.62

58

7

Number of new cases during the year

2

1

Number of deaths during the year

-

2

The very low incidence of deaths due to tuberculosis was maintained and reflects the efficacy of modern treatment. All known cases are thoroughly investigated and all known close contacts are invited to attend the Chest Clinic for investigation.

The following table shows the sex and age groups of cases notified during the year.

Age:-	Under 5	5/ 14	15/ 24	25/ 44	45/ 64	65 & over	Age unknown	Total
Male	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Female	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1

B.C.G. Vaccination.

In order to raise the immunity of school leavers to tuberculosis, vaccination with B.C.G. vaccine was offered to all children between the ages of 13 and 14 years attending schools in the Mid-Somerset Divisional Area. 512 accepted the offer and received preliminary skin test, the "Heaf Test", to determine whether they had in fact already experienced some infection with tuberculosis. 421 of these gave negative results and were vaccinated with the B.C.G. vaccine.

Mass Radiography.

A Mass Radiography unit visited the Royal Ordnance Factory at Puriton, Wilts United Dairies and the village of Woolavington during July 1962. A total of 796 persons (630 male, 166 female) attended for examination.

6 abnormalities were detected. The abnormalities were varied, and included one of a tuberculous nature.

Food Poisoning.

No cases were notified.

Diphtheria.

No cases of diphtheria were notified. During the year 289 children under the age of 5 years and 159 children between the ages of 5 - 15 years were immunised against diphtheria, giving a total of 448.

Tetanus Vaccination.

Tetanus vaccination is now combined with diphtheria immunisation almost as a routine and practically all infants receiving primary immunisation and all school children receiving booster injections are offered a combined vaccine.

The number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation in the year ended 31st December 1962, was as follows:-

Children born in the years:-							
1962	61	60	59	58	53-57	48-52	Total
45	176	48	12	4	35	-	321

Vaccination against Smallpox.

The number of recorded vaccinations was as follows:-

Under 1		1		2 to 4		5 to 15		15 or over		Totals	
P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R
326	-	82	7	206	40	661	256	812	971	2087	1274

P = Primary vaccination

R = Re-vaccination

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological specimens are sent to the Laboratory at Musgrove Park Hospital, which forms part of the Public Health Laboratory Service. Results of investigations are available with the minimum of delay and there is good liaison between the laboratory personnel and the field workers in the Public Health Department.

Hospitals.

The Ministry of Health Hospital Plan for England and Wales indicated that all hospital facilities other than a geriatric unit would be withdrawn from Bridgwater. The united protests of the many interested bodies both in and around the town produced results and it has now been intimated that a new maternity unit would be provided in Bridgwater and that outpatient facilities at Bridgwater General hospital would be improved and that a casualty department would be retained. This is heartening news, but it is still very far short of what was at one time hoped for and the situation is one which will need to be watched carefully in the future.

Hospitals in the area are administered by the South Western Hospital Board, through the Bridgwater Area Management Committee.

The hospitals are:-

Bridgwater General Hospital	72 beds
Mary Stanley Nursing Home	31 beds
Northgate Lodge	60 beds

Cases of infectious diseases needing hospital treatment, or isolation, are admitted to Taunton Isolation Hospital.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

No Local Authority Ante-Natal Clinics are held in the area, supervision being conducted by General Practitioners and Midwives. A number of expectant mothers attend at the Clinic at the Health Centre, Mount Street, Bridgwater, when blood samples are taken for determination of blood grouping, Rhesus Factor, etc.

Infant Welfare.

Infant Welfare Clinics, for which the County Council are responsible, are held at Ashcott, Cannington, Edington, Goathurst, East Huntspill, West Huntspill, Moorland, Nether Stowey, North Petherton, Pawlett, Puriton, Spaxton, Westonzoyle and Woolevington.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47.

A number of cases were assisted through informal action, and in no case was it necessary for the Council to take statutory action to secure the admission of an old person to suitable accommodation.

Home Help Service.

This service is provided by the County Council, with local administration by the Home Help Organiser, with an office at the Health Centre, Mount Street, Bridgwater.

The Home Helps have proved of very considerable value and much assistance was given to needy cases. During the year 155 cases received assistance.

These included the following types of case :-

Maternity	27
Old age and infirmity	84
Chronic sick	14
Post operation	6
Emergency illness	15
Tuberculosis	2
Other cases	7

The number of Home Helps at 31.12.62 was as follows:-

Full time	1
Part time	26

Welfare of Old People.

The Council are now assisting the W.V.S. in providing Meals on Wheels for old people, and this worthwhile service is greatly appreciated by the old people. The scheme is at present operating in certain parts of the District, but it is hoped to extend the service wherever there is need.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no registered Common Lodging Houses in the District.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Sewerage.

Re-sewering of the village of Cannington was commenced during the year and satisfactory progress has been made. By elimination of large quantities of storm water from the sewers this scheme will enable the existing sewage disposal system to function efficiently.

Preliminary work on the other sewerage schemes in the Council's phased programme for the provision of satisfactory sewage disposal systems in certain other parishes where the need is greatest has proceeded satisfactorily, and at the time of writing this report work has in fact commenced on the scheme to provide a sewage treatment plant at Chilton Polden.

Water Supplies.

Sampling of water supplies was continued and results generally were highly satisfactory. In those cases where results were not up to standard no special measures, apart from increasing chlorination, were necessary. An exception was the Goathurst private supply. Seven samples of this water were examined in the first half of the year and all but one gave excellent results. However, in July bacteriological tests showed that this water was heavily and seriously polluted. All consumers were immediately advised in writing to boil water used for human consumption, and to date this advice has not been withdrawn. Five further tests of this water carried out in the second half of the year indicated in all cases that faecal pollution of the water was continuing. Representatives of the Council have met with representatives of the consumers to consider the measures necessary to ensure a safe water supply for Goathurst village. It is however clear that it will be necessary to close this supply if it cannot be satisfactorily protected from pollution.

Results of bacteriological tests generally can be summarised as follows:-

Supply	Number of examinations	Report	
		satisfactory	not satisfactory
Fiddington	12	11	1
Goathurst	13	6	7
Willoughby	16	12	4
Over Stowey	12	12	-

Chemical analysis of Fiddington, Willoughby and Over Stowey supplies was continued as a matter of routine. Reports were as follows:-

Report of Chemical Analysis of Sample of Water

Received on 12.6.62

Labelled: Fiddington Public Supply. From tap.

	<u>Parts per million</u>
Physical Characters	Clear and bright. Hazen units less than 5
Reaction	Neutral
pH	7.0
Free Carbon Dioxide	9.5
Total Solids	380.0
Total Alkalinity (as CaCO_3)	255.0
Carbonate Hardness	255.0
Noncarbonate Hardness	70.0
Total Hardness	325.0
Chloride (as Cl)	20.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (as N)	0.032
Albuminoid "	0.022
Nitrate "	2.4
Nitrite "	nil
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C .	0.20
Sediment	none
Iron, Copper, Zinc, Lead	nil

This water is fairly hard, the hardness being mainly temporary. It is of satisfactory chemical quality.

Report of Chemical Analysis of Sample of Water

Received on 12.6.62

Labelled: Willoughby Public Supply. From tap.

	<u>Parts per million</u>	
Physical Characters	Clear and bright. units less than 5	Hazen
Reaction	Slightly alkaline	
pH	7.6	
Free Carbon Dioxide	2.5	
Total Solids	245.0	
Total Alkalinity (as CaCO_3)	160.0	
Carbonate Hardness	160.0	
Noncarbonate Hardness	30.0	
Total Hardness	190.0	
Chloride (as Cl)	20.0	
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (as N)	0.002	
Albuminoid "	0.004	
Nitrate "	1.8	
Nitrite "	nil	
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C .	0.05	
Sediment	none	
Iron, Copper, Zinc, Lead	nil	

This water is moderately hard in character most of which is temporary in nature. It contains very little organic impurity.

Report on Chemical Analysis of Sample of Water

Received on 12.6.62

Labelled Over Stowey Public Supply. From standpipe.

	<u>Parts per million</u>
Physical Characters	Clear and bright. Hazen units less than 5
Reaction	Very slightly alkaline
pH	7.5
Free Carbon Dioxide	1.5
Total Solids	30.0
Total Alkalinity (as CaCO_3)	45.0
Carbonate Hardness	
Noncarbonate Hardness	
Total Hardness	50.0
Chloride (as Cl)	16.0
Ammonical Nitrogen (as N)	0.002
Albuminoid "	0.018
Nitrate "	nil
Nitrite	nil
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C.	0.03
Sediment	none
Iron, Copper, Zinc, Lead	nil

This is a soft water of satisfactory chemical quality.

Housing.

During 1962 the Local Authority erected 11 houses, compared with 14 in 1961. Private enterprise built 191 houses in 1962, compared with 127 in 1961. At the end of the year there were approximately 350 applicants for Council houses, compared with 400 at the end of the previous year.

At the time of writing this report, work has commenced on the task of complete redevelopment of the Woolavington Housing Estate. A good start has been made and the period for completion of this scheme has been reduced from five to two and a half years. This is particularly welcomed as the condition of many of the existing houses is causing concern.

The number of post-war houses built in the Rural District from 1st April 1945 to 31st December 1962, was as follows:-

(a) Erected by the Local Authority	803
(b) Erected by Private Enterprise	1,493

Improvement Grants.

Owners of many properties have been informed of the benefits of these grants and have been urged to bring their properties up to modern standards. The following table summarises the action taken:-

Received		Approved	
Applications	No. of Dwellings	Applications	No. of Dwellings
34	42	34	42

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The records given in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report show the number of insanitary conditions dealt with.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR 1962.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my twenty-third Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1962.

STAFF.

The staff of the Department consists of Chief Public Health Inspector, two additional Public Health Inspectors and female clerk. All the Public Health Inspectors hold the Meat and Food Inspectors Certificate in addition to the statutory qualification.

COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES.

The number of complaints investigated during the year was 124, a decrease of 8 on the previous year. In most cases nuisances were abated as a result of informal action and it was only found necessary to serve 6 Statutory Notices. On inspection a number of complaints were found to be not justified and no further action was taken in regard to them.

Of the nuisances found, 106 were abated during the year. The number of visits made in connection with nuisances was 325.

The completion during the last few years of sewage disposal schemes in the villages of West Huntspill, Pawlett, Westonzoyland and Puriton has made possible the connection of house drains to sewers where previously drainage disposal in many cases was to unsatisfactory cesspools or septic tanks. These tanks invariably had overflow drainage which discharged septic effluent either directly or indirectly into ditches thus giving rise to nuisance which was formerly impossible to prevent. The new sewerage systems have also made it possible to instal water-closets, baths, sinks and lavatory basins in houses which lacked these amenities due to the absence of main drainage. When sewer connections are made all possible steps are taken to ensure that surface water is excluded.

The construction of a new sewerage system in the village of Cannington was commenced during the year. The existing combined sewers are known to be in very bad condition and completion of the work will remedy the present unsatisfactory position.

COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES (Continued).

The introduction of a cesspool emptying service is under consideration by the Council and it was felt that a necessary preliminary was to obtain information in regard to existing cesspools and septic tanks. With this object in view a survey of the whole of the District was made in the Autumn, 1,721 visits being made for this purpose. It was found that there are approximately 2,531 cesspools and septic tanks in the District.

WATER SUPPLY.

Samples of water for bacteriological examination are taken at monthly intervals from the four sources of supply controlled by the Council and are forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory, Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton for examination.

Samples are also taken before mains are again brought into use after the insertion of new valves or alterations to fittings, and before extensions to mains are brought into use.

A total of 77 visits was made in connection with water supply during the year.

HOUSING.

The total number of visits under the Housing Acts was 713, the number of separate houses inspected being 421.

As in previous years a considerable number of informal repair notices were sent to owners, and these were followed up where necessary with re-inspections and negotiations with property owners and their agents or builders to consider details of the required repairs.

It was generally found that although owners were prepared to carry out work to remedy minor defects there was considerable reluctance to incur heavy expenditure on more extensive repairs. The high cost of building work also remains a serious obstacle in the way of housing progress, and this is particularly so in the case of owner/occupiers with limited means and especially if they are of advanced age.

It is in cases of this type that the availability of improvement grant is a powerful factor in influencing a decision by owners as to whether they can afford to improve and modernise a house or whether they must restrict their expenditure to the carrying out of only essential repairs. In all cases full information and assistance in regard to improvement grants is given to property owners when considering repairs and it is usually possible to achieve a reasonably satisfactory result.

HOUSING (Continued)

During the year 117 houses were repaired and improved as a result of the service of informal notices.

7 houses were represented as unfit for habitation and incapable of being rendered fit at reasonable cost and 7 Demolition Orders and 2 Closing Orders were made by the Council. In 5 cases the Council agreed to accept undertakings to carry out approved works within a stipulated time and in one case an undertaking to use as a store was accepted. 23 houses subject to Demolition Orders were demolished during the year.

10 families were transferred during the year from condemned houses into Council houses.

184 visits were made during the year to 110 properties in regard to the reconditioning and alteration of existing houses and the installation of new sanitary fittings.

14 visits were made to houses in respect to which grants were made under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Acts.

93 visits were made in connection with applications for Improvement Grants, and 99 inspections of property were made to ascertain if conditions of grant were being fulfilled. In a number of cases it was found that dwellings were not being maintained to the standard required by the Act and in these cases the attention of owners was drawn to their obligations and they were requested to carry out such work as was considered to be necessary.

OVERCROWDING.

No new cases of overcrowding were discovered in dwellinghouses during the year, but three cases in caravans were dealt with, one case being abated by informal action.

9 visits were made in connection with overcrowding.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

The following particulars indicate the action taken under Part 1 of the Factories Act, 1937:-

	Number on Register	Insp.	Number of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	78	48	1	
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority				
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)				
TOTAL	78	48	1	

The 48 visits were made in respect to 48 factories.

	No. of cases in which defects were found			No. of cases in which prosecution were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Insp. By H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness				
Overcrowding (S.2)				
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)				
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)				
Ineffective drainage of floor (S.6)				
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)				
a) Insufficient				
b) Unsuitable or defective	4	5		
c) Not separate for sexes				
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).				
TOTAL	4	5		

BAKEHOUSES.

15 visits were made to the 11 bakchouses in the District and where defects or unsatisfactory conditions were found informal notices served were duly complied with.

One bakchouse closed during the year.

SHOPS.

186 inspections of shops were carried out in respect to the 243 premises in the District.

GENERAL SANITATION.

The following improvements were carried out, generally as a result of informal action:-

W.Cs	22
Baths	12
Sinks	8
Drainage systems	9
Lavatory basins	16
Connections to sewer	16
Larders	3
Internal water supply	1
Urinal	1
Hot water supply	1
Chemical closet	1

A number of other minor improvements were also carried out.

FOOD HYGIENE.

As in previous years a considerable amount of time has been spent on the inspection of premises under the Food Hygiene Regulations and 330 inspections have been made of the 297 premises in the District. The standard of hygiene in food premises continues to be good and of the deficiencies found most were of a minor nature. It is commonly found that store rooms and other food premises to which the public do not have free access are not maintained to the same high standard as shops. The importance of proper storage of food under hygienic conditions is being constantly brought to the notice of food traders.

The result of the informal action taken was that 62 deficiencies under the Food Hygiene Regulations were remedied during the year, and in addition the following improvements in facilities and equipment were carried out:-

Refrigerators	1
Refrigerated Display Counters	3
Washbasins	2
Water Heater	1
Sinks	2
Sterilising sink	1
Food Stores	2
W.C.	1
Dish Washer	1

FOOD HYGIENE (Continued)

The number and types of food premises in the District are as follows:-

Licensed houses and Clubs	70
Bakehouses	11
Butchers	12
Slaughterhouses	5
Poultry Packers	1
Dairies	11
Cafes	20
Guest Houses	2
School Kitchens	40
Food Preparing premises	37
Food Shops	88
Fish and Chip Shop	1
	<hr/>
	298
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LICENSED PREMISES

75 inspections of licensed premises were carried out, and a number of improvements were brought about by informal action.

One licensed house was closed during the year.

MEAT AND FOODS.

Of the five slaughterhouses in the District only one is now used exclusively in connection with the retail trade of an individual butcher's business. One slaughterhouse is used for the slaughter of animals for a number of butchers in Somerset, and the remaining three are wholesale slaughterhouses operating on a large scale. Most of the meat produced at the wholesale slaughterhouses is sent to the London wholesale markets but a considerable quantity is also sent to Southampton, Bristol and Bath, whilst a comparatively small amount goes to local retail butchers.

The number of animals slaughtered during the year increased by nearly 50% over the previous year and as the maximum kill is at weekends it is quite impossible to inspect all the animals killed. Every effort has been made to inspect as much meat as possible, a considerable amount of this work having to be carried out outside normal working hours.

1,139 visits were made in connection with the inspection of meat, and 36,505 carcasses were inspected, an increase of 11,704 over the previous year, and giving an average of 32 animals per visit. The numbers of the different kinds of animals inspected were as follows:-

Beasts	2,235
Cows	411
Calves	11,845
Sheep	19,065
Pigs	2,949

MEAT AND FOODS (Continued)

Approximately 11 tons of meat were condemned during the year, details of which are as follows:-

Beasts.

Carcases and organs	3
Heads and tongues	31
Livers	138
Lungs	37
Hearts	14
Spleens	3
Diaphragms	17
Beef	1,333 lbs.

Cows.

Carcases and organs	17
Heads and tongues	3
Livers	128
Lungs	22
Kidneys	5
Spleens	3
Hearts	6
Diaphragms	3
Beef	2,631 lbs.

Calves.

Carcases and organs	42
Livers	6
Lungs	5
Kidneys	32
Plucks	4
Veal	103 lbs.

Sheep.

Carcases and organs	35
Livers	116
Lungs	8
Plucks	46
Kidneys	2
Hearts	2
Mutton	208 lbs.

Pigs.

Carcases and organs	10
Heads and tongues	23
Livers	50
Lungs	20
Kidneys	3
Plucks	37
Hearts	10
Pork	165 lbs.

Other foods.

2 tins Ham
4 lbs. rabbit livers.

MEAT AND FOODS (Continued)

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during the year:-

	Cattle exc. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number inspected	2,235	411	11,845	19,065	2,949	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis - whole carcasses condemned	3	17	42	35	10	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	235	188	55	188	130	-
% of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	10.6	49.9	.8	1.2	4.7	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u> - Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	-	13	-
% of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	.13	-	-	-	.61	-
<u>Cysticercosis.</u> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	16	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	16	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and total condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Condemned meat is normally disposed of to manufacturers of animal feeding stuffs and fertilisers where it is processed and sterilised by steam under pressure.

PRESERVED FOODS.

There are 10 premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 for the manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed, pickled and preserved foods.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The number of retail purveyors of milk on the register is 8 and 11 visits were made for the inspection of dairies during the year.

ICE CREAM.

The number of premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream at the end of the year was 97, and two premises were also registered for the manufacture of ice cream. Each of these manufacturers produced ice cream by the "cold mix" method, followed by boiling the product.

22 samples were taken during the year, the results being as follows:-

19 samples were placed in Provisional Grade 1.

3 samples were placed in Provisional Grade 2.

A total of 41 visits were made in connection with the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream.

KNACKERS YARD.

The knackers yard at Dunball is being maintained in very good condition and was visited on 5 occasions during the year.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

135 visits were made during the year in connection with moveable dwellings.

There are 23 camping sites in the district, all of which are small. In addition there are 40 caravans on individual sites.

The Council gave very serious consideration during the year to the problem of gypsy camps and attempts were made to find a suitable site which could be developed and operated under the direct or indirect control of the Council. It was considered that such a site would have to be located in the region of the Quantock Hills by reason of the fact that the gypsies are employed during the summer and autumn by produce merchants who carry on their activities mainly in that area. A number of sites were inspected but none could be found which was entirely free from objection.

A meeting with the produce merchants was held in the early Spring and as a result three camps were established for use during the summer months only.

SUMMARY OF VISITS.

Water supply	77
Drainage	83
New Work	122
Nuisances	325
Refuse Disposal	3
Shops Acts	186
Factories	48
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	44
Housing (Slum Clearance)	192
Housing repairs	262
Improvement Grants	218
Housing (F.P.) Acts	14
Overcrowding	9
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	18
Moveable Dwellings	135
Infectious Diseases	15
Verminous Premises	6
Rodent Infestation	11
Meat Inspection	1,139
Food Shops	111
Bakchouses	15
School Kitchens	35
Other food preparing premises	69
Licensed Premises and Clubs	75
Dairies	11
Ice cream	41
Miscellaneous Food Visits	32
Milk Samples	5
Food Poisoning	2
Slaughterhouses	14
Knackers Yard	5
Waste Food Boiling Plants	3
Miscellaneous	17
Septic Tank Survey	1,721
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Total	5,063
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I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and
Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

F. A. MAILE.

Chief Public Health Inspector.



